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It our friends who favor us with manuscripts fo publication wish to have rejected articles returned, they must in all cases send stamps for that purpose.

The Supreme Court on Labor Legislation.

The recent decision of the Supreme Court of the United States sustaining the validity under the Federal Conscitution of the Kansas Eight-Hour Labor law has attracted much attention throughout the country, and particularly in this State, where it has been supposed to be in conflict with two decisions of our own Court of Appeals.

These New York decisions were made in the case of the People on the relation of WILLIAM J. RODGERS against BIRD S. COLE as Comptroller of this city, in 1901, which is to be found reported in | Point. That is the sort of man that the Volume 166 of the New York Reports at page 1; and in the case of the People against the Orange County Road Construction Company, last April, which is to be found reported in Volume 175 of the New York Reports at page 84.

A careful study of the opinion of the Supreme Court of the United States in the Kansas case, which was entitled W. W. ATKIN against the State of Kansas, shows that the Supreme Court entertains a view of the constitutionality of labor legislation opposed to the doctrine of the first of these New York cases, but in harmony with the doctrine of the second.

The Kansas statute provides that eight hours shall constitute a day's work for all persons employed by or on behalf of the State, or of any county, city, township or other municipality therein. It further provides that all contracts made on behalf of the State, or any such municipalities, with any corporation or person for the performance of any work, shall be deemed and considered as made upon the basis of eight hours constituting a day's work. Penalties of fine and imprisonment are prescribed for the violation of any of the provisions of the statute by any State or municipal officer, or any contractor with the State, or any county, city or town thereof. ATKIN made a contract with Kansas City to construct the brick pavement, and hired a man to shovel dirt in the execution of the work, in the course of which he required the shoveller to labor ten hours a day. He was prosecuted for this violation of the Eight Hour law, and that law was upheld as constitutional by the Supreme Court of Kansas.

It has now finally been sustained by the Supreme Court of the United States. The is to be observed that the Kansas statute does not apply to labor contracts between private persons or corporations. It relates solely to work to be performed for the State or for municipalities under the State government and to contractors who undertake to do such work. The term implies, and as we cannot discharge argument against the validity of the law was that such legislation, if justifiable at all, should apply to all persons and to all vocations, and could not be limited to contractors with the State and its municipalities. "Why," asked the coun-

sel for the defendant, "should the law allow a contractor to agree with a laborer to shovel dirt for ten hours a day in performance of a private contract, and make exactly the same act under similar conditions a misdemeanor when done in the performance of a contract for the construction of a public improvement? The Supreme Court, in answer to this question, decides in substance that the State is vested with supreme power in determining the conditions under which public work shall be done, either for the State itself or for any of the municipal corporations which it has constituted within its borders. "It cannot be deemed a part of the liberty of any contractor." save Judge HARLAN, "that he be allowed to do public work in any mode he may choose to adopt, without regard to the wishes of the State. On the contrary, at belongs to the State, as the guardian and trustee for its people, and having control of its affairs, to prescribe the conditions upon which it will permit pub-He work to be done on its behalf, or on behalf of its municipalities. No court has authority to review its action in that

These views seem plainly in conflict with the decision of the Court of Appeals of this State in the Rodgers case under our statute known as the Prevailing Rate of Wages law. That law required a contractor with the city to stipulate that he would pay his workmen not less than the prevailing rate of wages in the locality; and such requirement | little real importance in itself. It is an was held to be unconstitutional because it denied to the city and the contractor, In some lines Cuban purchases will be the right to agree with their employees upon the measure of their compensation. This doctrine would be unassatable of course, if the performance of labor for a municipality is to be deemed a constitutional right; but under the decision of the Supreme Court in the Kansas case it is only a privilege, the enjoyment of which may be restricted by such a large share of Cuban trade. Perhaps conditions as the State sees fit to im-

On the other hand, the Orange county case, decided by the Court of Appeals, merely held that it was unconstitutional to require an independent contractor, as distinguished from a direct contractor with the State, to limit the service of his employees to a term of eight hours a bottle in favor of an American product. easy of identification. It is his badge day. Judge Cullen, who wrote the The man who wants a Gallego ham wants opinion, conceded that the State might it because of the peculiar qualities of the possessing "in every part of the State, prescribe regulations for the conduct of its employees, and that such employees must comply with the mandate of the Legislature; but while, he said, "if the State itself prosecutes a work it may dietate every detail of the service required in its performance; prescribe

labor and the particular individuals who may be employed, no such right exists where it has let out the performance of the work to a contractor unless it is reserved by the contract." In such a case the workmen are held to be the servants of the independent contractor, and not of the State or municipality. This distinction serves to reconcile the Mr. Justice HARLAN'S opinion in the Supreme Court of the United States.

Other interesting questions are presented by this decision.

The Boss.

In these hours of political doubt and confusion it is a joy and a solace beyond price to all honest and self-respecting Republicans to feel that they have at last a real Leader. Especially is it reassuring to the friends and admirers of Mr. ROOSEVELT to know that his interests are in safe hands and that the statesman who has taken them in charge is one that can be implicitly trusted, one whose patriotism, unselfishness and personal probity have never been tainted with a breath of suspicion and whose ability and devotion have won for him the confidence and esteem of every true Republican between Buffalo and Montauk situation certainly demands, and fortunate indeed is the party that can command, in stressful times, his invaluable

It must be a great relief to the President, who may have fancied he had some reason to feel nervous about New York, to survey the scene of harmony that is now presented. It is beautiful to contemplate the spirit of mutual confidence, the entire absence of mistrust, the sense of strength and unity, the fixity of purpose, and, above all, the sublime and unwavering faith in the present and in the future that now characterizes all ranks in the Republican army in the State of New York.

It recalls at once the conditions that prevailed in the memorable Bryan campaign, when the Republicans in these parts girded up their loins under the leadership of PLATT and set up a front of battle that there was no withstanding. PLATT'S power as a leader, his judgment of men, his organizing faculty and his political intuitions, were then unimpaired by treachery and the insidious inroads of graft. Always an unselfish leader, greedy enough of power, but having absolutely no thought of filling his pockets, PLATT commanded and deserved to command. His counsels were wise, they were founded in a ripe experience and he had that supreme advantage in practical politics which a man derives from being personally clean handed. There was no stealthy tribute, no addition, division and silence about PLATT. He has never made any money out of politics and he is a poor man to-day. We doubt if PLATT is as well off as he was fifteen years ago. All the same he was a political "boss," in all that the our political functions without a "bose then PLATT is the sort of "boss" that we should prefer. PLATT's chief disability was derived from his weakness for cold storage reptiles. He could not keep from gathering them up here and there

as they were properly thawed out. But, as we have observed, harmony, pure altruistic harmony, is the order of the day; and the elevated ideals, unselfishness and implacable honesty of the new "boss" are the best guarantees of party solidarity. All the spice and all the condiments of success are truly comprised in his engaging entity.

throughout the State and putting them

in warm places, and they commonly ful-

filled their traditional propensity as soon

The Opening for Trade With Cuba.

The following extract from a personal etter written by one of the most extensive sugar planters in Cuba is placed at our disposal:

"Regarding increased exports from the United States, this will come in time, but not until prices here decline greatly from their present level. During the past six months I have purchased about \$100,000 worth of machinery and general supplies for our estates, and for the first time in my experience I placed a large part of these orders in England, because I found the prices there ranged from 20 to 45 per cent, below the American prices. The greatest difference was on iron and steel goods.

5 percent., a reduction of 20 per cent., it is only 1 per cent, on cost, and this does not go far in offsetting so marked a difference in American and English prices, as the freight is practically the same from

The reciprocity treaty with Cuba is of incident on which hangs opportunity. made on other grounds than that of a tariff advantage. Cuba's purchases of machinery from the United States are based upon other considerations than that of prime cost, and the treaty will be of little effect in that department.

In the line of alimentary substances of all kinds the United States now holds the larger part of that which is purchased elsewhere is bought for special reasons, such as habit or individual preference. regardless of slight differences in cost The man who likes and is accustomed to the use of a particular Spanish wine is not likely to be at once weaned from and his number, are designed only to his habit by a difference of a few cents a | make him conspicuous in the streets and Gallego article, and he is in no way likely to change his taste and his habit in favor of the American ham, whether it be an

Armour or a Smithfield. A third group would include a variety of articles in which we have heretofore use. In Section 308 of the city Charter been beaten by Europe only in the matter | provision is made for the appointment by the wages of workmen, their hours of of prices. It is in this department that the Police Commissioner of special pa-

our sales to Cuba.

It is folly to say that the United States

tire import trade. American products do not even monopolize our own domestic trade. No more can be expected from the treaty with Cuba than that it will bring us an increased percentage doctrine of the Orange county case with | in certain lines of Cuban importation. Cuba's entire commerce is not purchasable at the price we have offered her. Nor is it probable that any very important results will follow the mere fact of the existence of a treaty. One might almost as well expect a crop from a plot of ground which he had ploughed but had neither planted nor cultivated. Little trade can be expected to come our way without adequate solicitation. The Cuban trade will require "drumming" by competent sales agents, by high class men who know their business and can speak the Spanish language. Packing conditions and terms of credit will be important factors. Where no more than a small percentage of difference existed in the laid down cost of the goods, the Spanish merchant in Havana would regard the four or six months, or the running account, given him by European dealers as better than a little lower price and a draft with the bill of lading. If the American merchant wants Cuban

trade he must seek it and cater to it in precisely the same manner that he caters to his home trade. Up to a certain point he can dictate conditions. Beyond that point he must meet and adjust himself to the conditions already existing in the island.

In communications to the State Department at Washington, bearing dates of Aug. 12, 1902; April 22, 1903, and June, 1903, Minister SQUIERS has furnished considerable important information regarding trade in machinery, boots and shoes and cotton goods and in reference to commercial terms and credits. In his report for the current year Consul-General STEINHART advocates the estabishment in Havana of an exchange and a bureau of exhibits of American wares. Yet, while the officially submitted information of Ministers and Consuls is of important value, it is and must remain inadequate for those who would secure any extensive business. For such there is only one wise course. That is either personal investigation in the island or an investigation through a fully qualified representative sent there for careful inquiry into trade conditions.

The enactment of a treaty between the United States and Cuba gives American merchants and manufacturers an opportunity to secure several million dollars worth of trade. Unless that treaty gain a value from their own acts and efforts, it will avail little and be of little worth.

George Washington's Vice-President

We find in the Evening News of Buffalo the following remarks on the official relations that existed between GEORGE WASHINGTON and THOMAS JEFFERSON a little over one hundred years ago:

"The policy of THOMAS JEFFERSON WAS to sit to the Cabinet of Grorge Washington as his Secretary of State and from that confidential position to esail the Administration in every vile way known to that epoch and, by means of men employed to use secrets furnished by Secretary JEFFERSON, to undermine and destroy the influence of WASHING-

Does not this writer know that the reorical and political students and authori-JEFFERSON sat in WASHINGTON'S Cabinet as Secretary of State?

That was formerly believed. It was generally accepted as a fact that JEFFERson was a member of Washington's Cabinet from 1789 to 1794. Most of the biographical dictionaries and other works of reference do all they can to perpetuate the error. Nevertheless, there is now no excuse for ignorance on the part of any newspaper.

Seven years ago last September there appeared in the Review of Reviews the first authoritative announcement of the discovery that THOMAS JEFFERSON, instand of being GEORGE WASHINGTON'S Secretary of State, by appointment, was n reality his Vice-President, chosen by the electors.

We quote below the exact language of this revolutionary announcement. It settled the question and disposed forever

of the old John Adams myth: "The man who received the greatest number of electoral votes was made President, and the man who received the second greatest number was made Vice-President, on a theory somewhat akin o that by which certa'n reformers hope to revolutionize our system of voting at the present day. "In the early days under the present Constitu tion this system resulted in the choice of WASH-INGTON for President and of his antitype, JEFFERson, for Vice-President, the combination being about as incongruous as if we should now see McKinley President and either BETAN or WATSON

Conclusive? We should say so! Authoritative? Yes, to finality. For the name attrohed to the article was that of THEODOR... ROOSEVELT.

The Policeman's Shield.

The Rev. CORTLAND MYERS of Brookvn. in a formal statement published yesterday, made this serious charge against the Police Department of New York city: "To those men that he had so taken, in utter violation of the law, Capt. PIPER gave a detective sergeant's badge, something that was an actual violation of the law and a crime, which enabled the men to be put in a position to use the most effective

parts of the Police Department for their own use. They were not policemen and never have been. and yet these were the men that he stole from the detective agency, put badges on, gave them the sacred power of a policeman without the slightest right, and now he undertakes to charge the society

The policeman's badge, or shield, is the essential part of his uniform. His blue coat and brass buttons, his helmet that identifies him as a peace officer, all the common law and statutory powers of constables, except for the service of civil process," and to protect this emblem of authority the State has adopted stringent laws regulating its

we may look for the largest increase in trolmen "upon an emergency or apprehension of riot, tumult, mob, insurrection, pestilence or invasion," who shall serve without pay and to whom badges either should or can control Cuba's enmay be issued. There is no provision for issuing police badges to men em-

ployed as informers. The charge brought by Mr. MYERS is serious one, capable of proof or disproof immediately. Capt. PIPER is reported as denying it promptly. If the Rev. Mr. MYERS has proof he should produce the same. If not, he should retract and apologize.

A Good New Year's Resolution. Dr. PARKHURST'S admonition to "a good many people" not to put their trust

in formal resolutions to mend their ways at the start of a year, has not the merit of novelty. At this season of the year it is a warning always uttered, yet it is questionable if it is needed now or was needed at the remote period in the past when the pulpit and the moral philosopher began the custom.

What harm is there in making good resolutions at New Year's or at any other time? Dr. PARKHURST intimated that they will last only till the middle of the month; but so far so good. Half a month of reasonable conduct is better than none at all.

New Year's Day is a particularly desirable time for turning over a new leaf by "a good many people," even if the turning is for that single day only. That festival usually works more mischief than any other in the calendar. It is followed by more swelled heads and more vain regrets for a day misspent.

Of all the holidays, New Year's is the one which is likely to incapacitate the most people for getting to work when industry starts up again, on the succeeding day. More gaps in working forces are found when the roll is called. "A good many people" are in bed getting over a New Year's debauch or they are continuing it and inviting consequences which will be even more calamitous

This year the holiday comes on a Friday, and there is accordingly peculiar danger that the debauch will be prolonged over Sunday, so that when the due course of affairs starts, on Monday, the disabled will be more than usual and in worse state. The aggregate of solid work done in New York from Thursday night to Monday morning will be small relatively, and next week the hospitals are sure to be crowded, unless "a good many people" have sufficient resolution to conduct themselves on this festival with reasonable discretion. They need not get drunk in order to prove that they are happy.

Even if they keep the resolution for three days only they will have gained vastly by the making of it. They will wake up on Monday morning fit for duty, and they themselves and the whole community will have reason to rejoice.

The time when drunkenness looked on as a rather comical manifestation of jovial spirits has passed away. It begins to be put into a category along with lunacy. At any rate, it is a luxury of dear cost for the man who has a living to make. It never was so hard for a man to stand up against a reputation of inability to keep self-indulgence under the control of reason.

In spite of Dr. PARKHURST, therefore, we advise everybody to keep sober on uct we urge him to record it in his wants to put it into writing or make it pulse. So long as he turns up on Monday fit for duty, it will not matter.

According to a Washington despatch to the New York Times, Senator BAILEY of Texas "has been talked of in Congress for months" as a candidate for the Democratic nomination for President, "but the idea receives no encouragement in the Senate. The writer of the despatch says humorously that "the principal objection" Mr. BAILEY's Democratic brethren in the Senate make to his candidacy "is based on his fondness for trotting horses." An honest American pas-

sion, that, and not unknown to Presidents. Readers of the Congressional Record cannot help having a deep respect for the intellectual force and keenness of this young Texan. He always knows what he is talking about. He is a dangerous man to interrupt. He has unusual knowledge and unusua quickness of mind. It is safe to include his name in any list of the ablest five or six Senators. His Democratic colleagues appreciate his ability, but it is hard for them to forgive him for being so confounded young. As a Presidential candidate, he may be the victim of geography, but he has brains "to burn."

There is nothing like stretching a railroad through a new country to increase our knowledge of it. The Russians have just published the first scientific map ever made of the Syr-daria, based on a survey of that famous river which the ancients called the Jaxartes. They have traced the whole of its tortuous course across the sands of northern Turkestan, and hereafter it will be among the well-mapped rivers of the world; and their careful study of the river, as they have laid the track that is to connect Orenburg with Tashkent, has led to an unpleasant discovery that may necessitate the rebuilding of a part of the railroad.

The desert it crosses was once the bed of the old inland sea of Turkestan, and remnants of the sea are still found in lacustrine spaces and cavities that stud the old sea floor. The railroad track was extended through one of the largest of these cavities before it was discovered that once in several years the Syr-daria rises high enough at flood to fill the neighboring depressions The result is that a portion of the completed track is at present about forty feet under water, which tends to discourage transportation by land. This is one of the accidents that are likely to happen when we carry enterprises into regions of which we

A Ballad of the Season. Bring me back the good old summer (For the radiator's freezing) With its lazy, dreamy day (And the ice is on the par With the hammock gently swinging (For the janitor is swearing) Underneath a leafy ma

(And the tenants plead in vain) Bring me back the good old summer Bring it back, oh, quick, I say! (And the snow is on the ground): Let me lie amid the clover And the sweetly scented hay (While a blissard howls around

THE SCHOOL SYSTEM. Prominent Citizen Demands That It Be Kept From Keligious Control.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: If it is true, as recently stated, that the Board of Regents and the Department of Public Introduced in the Legislature relating to the school question, such action will indicate that the matters in dispute between these two departments have not yet reached settlement. Six hundred high schools and academies are under the supervision of both depart-ments, calling for two sets of supervising

of each is sufficient. This condition produces friction between the two departments. The distribution of certain funds among the high schools and academies is another source of dispute, each department maintaining that it should be the only distributing agent. This matter was compromised, temporarily at least, by the passage of a law, last winter, by which the Chancellor of the University and the Superintendent of Public Instruction were jointly authorized to apportion such money. It is evident, however, that this disposition of the question is not satisfactory to all concerned.

for the control of the academies and high schools, but a very dangerous solution of the question has been demanded by the Chance lor of the University, a prominent Protestant Bishop, the presiding officer of the Board of

Regents and its representative.

Last winter, if I correctly recall the facts. he demanded from the Legislature that the Department of Public Instruction be abolshed and that the power to appoint the Superntendent of Public Instruction be given to the Board of Regents, thus putting under the control of that body not only the 600 high schools and academies, but also the 12,000 public schools, often called common over which the Board of Regents has never

the Chancellor's demand, termed "educational unification," is granted, the public schools of the State of New York will be placed under the control of a body in which ecclesiastics sit and play prominent parts Thus the way will be open for clerical inter ference with the public school system.

No greater danger exists in this republic o-day than the constant attempt of the Church to get its grip upon the public schools have established parochial schools in opposition to public schools have openly favored the transfer of the latter to the Board of Regents. Yet a moment's reflection should convince every one that the advocates of parochthe subject. Having repudiated the public schools, these people are morally estopped from discussing the public school question. Their position, therefore, in backing up the

Chancellor's demand is monstrous. of Regents and the Department of Public Instruction are now under consideration by a special committee, appointed by the last Legislature to investigate the subject and to give its report at the coming legislative session. What the committee's report will be is not yet known to the public; but the report should include a recommendation that the provision prohibiting ecclesiastics from holding public office be restored to the State Constitution. This provision existed in the first and second State Constitutions, 1777 and 1821. but was unwisely omitted in the subsequent Constitutions. After declaring that ministers of the Gospel are dedicated to the service of God and should not be "diverted from the great duties of their function," the section continues, "therefore no minister of the Gospel, or priest of any denomination whatsoever, shall, at any time hereafter, under any pretence or description whatever, be eligible to or capable of holding any civil or military office or place within this State." (Constitution of 1777, Article XXXIX; Constitution of 1821,

Article VII., Section 4). At no time in the history of New York State has this provision been more needed than at present.

On Oct. 1 THE SUN printed a letter from the Rev. W. Montague Geer, vicar of St. Paul's Protestant Episcopal Chapel, in which he advocated the division of the public school fund among the different religious associations for the maintenance of parochial schools thereby absolutely crippling if not killing the public school system. This unwarrant-New Year's Day, and if a resolution to able and unpatriotic attack upon the public carches of one of the foremost of his- do it will help anybody to temperance of schools naturally received the support of other advocates of parochial schools. Nor will the Rev. Mr. Geer's position strengthen ties have demolished the old legend that mental consciousness at least; and if he the Protestant Episcopal Church. When before witnesses, let him obey his im- alike attack the public schools, a popular resentment against the attacking party.

It is the duty of all citizens to support the public school system and to insist that the people, not the Church, shall control the public schools and school funds. Any attempt to create a contrary policy will bring

Ecclesiastics, as a class, are not to be trusted upon the matter of secular education. presence upon State educational boards is incongruous in this republic, and in the great State of New York the Constitution should again contain the provision prohibiting ministers of the Gospel and other priests from holding political office. A constitutional amendment to this effect should be adopted without delay. JOHN V. L. PRUYN. TUXEDO PARK, Dec. 25.

How He Was Converted From Evil Ways. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: In your edi torial on the "Glory of the Christian Year," you say the idealism of Christianity still sairs the religious emotions of Christendom

Now, I don't think I know just what that means but somehow it reminds me that years ago when I was fast becoming a drunkard I used to attend services at a church in Newark, just to hear a lady sing, and as she sang she must have stirred the religious emotions in me, for I always felt very plous, and "mine eyes became a very fountain of tears." Could I have remained under that spell I don't believe I could have done an evil thing; but when I got out on the street again I made for the nearest saloon, every time, and spent the next hou or more filling myself with beer, which also must have stirred my religious emotions, for I remember on one of these occasions of quarrelling with the barkeeper because he did not believe in God.
Whether this illustrates your point or not I don't know, but it shows how a man may have religious

emotions, yet not be a Christian. Twenty-three years ago to-night, and some years for attending the church meeting referred to. and after years of hard drinking and evil courses generally, I attended a little Woman's Temperance Union meeting in Newark, and there without any religious emotions, but with an awful sense of my exceeding sinfulness. I surrendered to Jesus Christ, and a spirit was put within me that has been with me ever since, and I have been as free from my old way of living as though I had never lived at all. "Old things have passed away and behold all things have become new."

The idealism of Christianity is Jesus Christ and

Philadelphia as a Way Station

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Little or n objection is offered here to the passage of the through trains between New York and Washington that do not, as formerly, run into Broad Street Station. These trains stop at West Philadelphia, and until recently passengers for Philadelphia were permitted to take one of the local trains to Broad Street. Outgoing passengers from the centre of the city could also take one of the 268 departing trains at Broad Street and connect at West Phila-delphia with the through service between New York and the South. It is the discontinuance of this convenient

er that is objected to, and there is every good reason why the "take a cab or walk" order of the company should be viewed as unwarranted and a lecided inconvenience to the travelling public.

Few Philadelphians feel any serious degree of oride in that hugh pile of architectural eccentricity known as the Broad Street Station, and so far as it is concerned there should rather be a feeling of relief that through passengers between New York and Washington are not permitted to look upon as a product of Philadelphia art. PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 27. HERBERT ALLEN.

Dr. Johnson's Modest Ambition. Samuel Johnson was compiling his dictionary.
"I am merely trying," he explained, "to collect a ew words for the Boston baby to lisp." ng it was at best but a kindergarten aid, be Story of a Pole Who Finally Found the

Place Where He Was Needed. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN -Sir: An interesting incident that came to the writer's attention some months ago illustrates the fact, now generally admitted, that the whole objection to the present phases of immigration might be eliminated if the aliens could be properly distributed and the tendency stoppe settle down in the crowded cities of the East, where population is already congested. In June last a Polish farmer arrived here,

young man of superior capacity in his walk life, who had been superintendent of the farmhands on the large estate from which he came. He brought a letter from his former mployer to a relative here, who established him in a downtown Polish mission house for few days till work could be found for him What the man preferred was farm work,

ut he was eager for immediate employment at something or other. No one at the mission could tell him what to do or where to go. He decided to take any work that offered in the He remained at the mission less than two days and when he departed no question was asked as to where he was going or what e intended to do. Meanwhile the person to whom he had

rought a letter had found an opportunity for him on a farm up the State at \$12 a month and board. This would at least be a starter. But where was the Pole? The mission could give no information. It was finally recalled that the man said that he had left his luggage a watch repairer's shop in Forsyth street and after five watch repairers had been interviewed he was finally located late one Saturday night at a Polish boarding house in a rystic street tenement.

The new friends he had made there told im if he wished to do well he must remain in own. Readymade clothing was an industry offering a fine opportunity. He would have to break in with a week's work gratis. Then he would receive \$6 a week and his advancement A manufacturer had told him he would give

would depend upon the facility he acquired. A manufacturer had told him he would give him a chance. His rent would be 75 cents a month in a room occupied by twelve or fifteen lodgers. His board would cost about \$2 a week. He would save money from the start and might hope for a speedy advance in pay. He had just decided to accept this brilliant opportunity when the chance to go into the country, where he really belonged, was presented to him.

It took an hour's talk to convince him that he owed it to his family and his own wellbeing to go into the country, but he finally promised that he would go. All the next day his new acquaintances plied him with arguments to induce him to stay in town. They told him he was a fool to go to a form at small wages when he could do fairly well at the start in town and might expect good wages here before long. Here was his best chance to make a living for his wife and three children, who were still over the sea. But he had promised to go, and the following Tuesday morning saw him started for the country.

Everybody knows that our demand for good farm labor is now greater than the supply. This Pole knows it to-day and is very glad he is in the country. He proved to be so faithful and efficient that his wages were soon increased to \$17, then to \$20, and from April to October next he is to receive \$25 a month. Three of his computriots are to leave Poland in April to join him in the township where he lives. There will be a little Polish colony in the place and the farmers are glad of it, for they sorely need good farmhande.

The fact is that no agency ex six in this greatest centre of immigration that gives disinterested advice and information with regard to opportunities for employment on the farms. There are private agencies which send men to Michigan or elsewhere under conditions that bleed them almost to the last drop. But where is the place in which the large supply of farm laborers who are coming here without predetermined plans can be put in communication with the farmers who

committee concludes its papers. In the control of t migrants in the regions where their bone of sinew are most needed and they may do

st for their own interests. New York, Dec. 28. Cleveland in the West.

From the Indianapolis News. Cleveland has great and positive strength with the people. Probably he could come nearer to being elected than any other Democrat. He is known to be popular in demand that all ecclesiastics shall be kept solid South, he would come pretty close to an from holding political office is sure to arise. Attacks upon the public school system arouse votes more to carry him through. Aud

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I read with atcrest the article in to-day's issue of THE SUN on the "new" Australian game of euchre known "Call on the Ace," and am at a loss to know why the writer of the article compared it to the game of bid euchre. I fall to see any similarity whatever. Had be compared the Australian game to our old and correctly named game of Call on the Ace, it would have been more to the point. I have the latter game for more years than I can of argon existing in certain specimens of air. But the property which calcium possesses of ever. Had he compared the Australian game to recall and never found any difficulty in getting utilizing the property which calcium possesses of players who were also familiar with it; so that it absorbing at one and the same time the oxygen. must be quite generally known.

The two games are played in the same way cept as to the following points:

1. In our game the holder of the ace of the suit called is the partner. If the ace is in the stock the

caller must go it alone.

In the Australian game the holder of the next highest card (king) would be the partner. If the ace, king and queen should happen to be in the stock the holder of the jack would be the partner. The caller, therefore, has better chances for a partner.

In all these towns the amount of argon found in the air of Paris, of London, of Berlin, of Vienna, of St. In all these towns the amount was identical. The same proportion of argon was also found in the caller, therefore, has better chances for a partner.

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Sea, in the Guit of Manles, in the Valley of Chambard and the top of Monte Blanc. Air collected in the middle of the Atlantic card is an ace he cannot call but must go it alone. In the Australian game the ace can be called

BROOKLYN, Dec. 27. Decay of the British Christmas. From the Lady's Pictorial.

Mistletoe has had its day. The dealers say there s little or no demand for it, and, sad to say, there

seems to be a decided falling off in all Christmas seems to be a decided falling off in all Christmas decorations. All manner of prosaic reasons are given for this cutting down of a picturesque Christmas custom, the chief being that people live in flats nowadays and, as their space is limited, they do not care to fill their rooms with greenery, which "gathers dust and makes a mess." Then, as we no longer "keep Christmas with joility," mistletoe seems certainly out of place. We cannot let the holly, the box and the bay go without a pane, nevertheless and if we sequiesce mildly in heir abolition who knows what next may be reft from us? The waits have gone, snow is no longe a Christmas certainty, mistletoe has lost its popu larity, and now we may well ask ourselves. Is the mince ple on the wans? And how long shall our

IMMIGRANTS AND THE FARMS. PRESIDENT TALKS ABOUT BIRDS. Mr. Fuertes of This City Shows Him a Lot

of New Sketches of American Birds. Washington, Dec. 28.-A man with a slouch hat on his head and a big portfolio under his arm walked up the White House steps the other evening and rang the bell. The attendants looked upon him with something like suspicion, but before they could make a demand for the portfolio a hearty voice behind them soid:

"Come in, come in, Mr. Fuertes. I am delighted to see you."

President Roosevelt rushed forward and grabbed the man's hand. The visitor was Louis Agassiz Fuertes, the bird artist of New York, who had come all the way to Washington to show the President a lot of new sketches of American birds. The list new sketches of American birds. The list included pretty nearly every feathered inhabitant of North America, from a marsh wren to a California condor. The President took Mr. Fuertes into a private room, and for three hours they looked over the contents of the portfolio.

Mr. Roosevelt is an expert ornithologist.

tents of the portfolio.

Mr. Roosevelt is an expert ornithologist, and has been from his youth. He knows every bird in the United States, if such experts as John Burroughs are to be credited. The President gave Mr. Fuertes plenty of frank criticism. If there was too much red on the shoulder of a swamp blackbird he

said so.

The bird lovers thoroughly enjoyed the evening. Mr. Fuertes recalled to the President a coincidence which he ran across in the diary of John James Audubon. Under a date during the Administration of Presi-dent Andrew Jackson appears the follow-

To-day I called upon the President of the United States and showed the drawings for my projected work on the birds of North America. The President seemed much interested and declared that he was delighted with the pictures

OUR COURTS FOLLOW IOWA. We Won't Extradite a Jerseyman for De serting His Wife.

The peculiar New Jersey law which decrees that a man who "abandons his wife and leaves the State" is guilty of a crime does not, it appears, create an extraditable offence. Jacob Zipf, a roofer, lives in Newark, but came here some time ago. On Dec. 7 he was arrested, charged with deserting his wife and child, and was locked up in the Tombs pending extradition. He appeared before Supreme Court Justice Scott yesterday on a writ of habeas corpus and his counsel pointed out to Justice Scott that if the crime of desertion was not completed until the deserter left the State, then he could not be extradited, since his erime had not been committed in New Jersey, but in New York. Counsel also remarked that the Governor of Iowa had

so decided in a similar case.
Assistant District Attorney Gray said that
the argument of Zipf's counsel seemed to
be irrefutable, and Justice Scott decided that in view of the unanimity of opinion including the opinion of the Governor of including the opinion of the Governor of Iowa, there seemed to be nothing left lowa, there seemed to be nothing level but to discharge the prisoner.

As Zipf was leaving the courtroom he expressed an ardent desire to shake hands with Justice Scott. Ho was firmly but gently

led away to freedom and fresh air

IN DISPRAISE OF ST. LOUIS.

Apparently a Concerted Effort to Bun Hown That I'me and Mospitable Town. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: It your correspondent "Thank-Heaven-I-Livein-Binghamton-and-Not-in-St.-Louis" Johnson wants real sympathy, he'd better come to the staff of Governor Yates. They were the 'guests" of St. Louis during the dedication eremonies last May. Rooms were assigned o them in a hotel near the exposition grounds for which they were permitted to pay \$20 a lay each. The hotel was unfinished, and when some of them asked for towels they were old that they were supposed to have brought their own towels with them.

If I remember right, the party of President Roosevelt (except the President himself, his secretary and his physician) were also confined in this institution at the same time. large quantity of laundry (including that of Mr. Roosevelt) was sent out from the hotel. At the time it came back only a negro mea-senger, who had not on his person the thirty-odd dollars due on the bundles, was present in the hotel. He asked that it be sent to the President's train, where it would be paid for.

Democrat. He is known to be popular in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut, and if he could carry these States together with the solid South, he would come pretty close to an election. He would need only twelve-electoral votes more to carry him through. And there are several States from which he might possibly get them.

Mr. Cleveland has been tried, and the people know that the interests of the country, both foreign and domestic, would be safe in his hands. Thus there is a real basis for the so-called Cleveland boom. The most remarkable thing about the case is that the more men think of other candidates, the more they seem inclined to turn to the ex-President. shamed somebody into making room for the

more men think of other candidates, the more they seem inclined to turn to the ex-President.

Nor do we hear much of the third-term objection, which is at least something to be considered by practical politicians and managers. Apparently it is assumed that the people will not be affected or influenced by the argument against a third term. At any rate, the Cleveland movement survives, and it may be that it will amount to something. All this must, of course, be most flattering to the ex-President.

Virtually read out of the party seven years ago, he is now being talked of seriously as the only man who can lead the party to victory next year. That surely is honor enough. He stands before the people as the most influential Democrat and the leading citizen of the republic. He may not be nominated, but he will have a good deal to say about who shall be nominated. And if his advice is followed the party will be stronger with the people than it has been since 1892.

Australian Euchre.

To the Editor of the Sun—Sir: I read with interest the article in to-day's issue of The Sun on the first own darking room for the safely stowed in a carriage. Mr. Cannon then shalled somebody into making room for the shalled somebody into making room for the president's travelling guests were unable to get carriages by courtesy or hire to take them from the hotel to the dedicatory ceremonies. In the hotel to the dedicatory ceremonies, and that as a last resource, not having been from the hotel to the dedicatory ceremonies, and that as a last resource, not having been from the hotel to the dedicatory ceremonies, and that as a last resource provident's travelling guests burthed to the dedicatory ceremonies, and that as a last resource, not having been greated to the carriages. It was the president's travelling guests burthed to the dedicatory ceremonies, and that as a last resource, not having been from the hotel to the dedicatory ceremonies, and that as a last resource not having as carriages. Wr. Is the president's travelling guests hurt

CHICAGO, Dec. 26.

Argon in the Air. From the Lancet

An interesting communication was made recently to the Paris Academy of Science on the subject of argon in atmospheric air. M. Moissan reported that he had followed up the researches of M. Schloesthe nitrogen and all the impurities which are found in atmospheric air, and by the use of a special apparatus of which he had already given a descrition to the Academy, M. Moissan had been able to estimate the amount of argon found in the air

Sea, in the Gulf of Naples, in the Valley of Cham-ounix, at the Grands Mulets and at the top of Mont appeared to be slightly richer in argon than that from other places.

without having a suit card in the hand. He can also call the ace in his hand, and, though this is the same as going it alone, it deceives the other players. We thus see that our game is true to name and probably the parent of the game described. Possibly the modifications are improvements.

BROOKLIN Dec. 27. argon than that from other places is probably in some way connected with its solubility in water and the great and frequent variations of atmospaerle pressure to which the Atlantic Ocean is

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Let me suggest to those who use the Ninth avenue elevated road's up and down stations, to be in just as great a hurry when they pass the "Jam party" as they are when in it. It is astonishing how quickly we for-get all about the "Jam" once we get through it. Let us start the new year with a resolution to "step lively" on the lower stairs going down, and also on the upper stairs going up, and see if it won's Improve matters and add to our comfort all around.

NEW YORK, Dec. 28. WILLIAM MCADIE

Atlanta's Contribution. From the Atlanta Constitution.

The Hon. William H. Black, formerly of Atlanta. who is to be Commissioner of Acc

MERELY AT THE

DAINTY

No Chills Laurels

"Merely M the audienc had not been Zangwill, by dramatic de

night, and ea indeed, that speech |Bran

has seen this But don't dramatic chi The most ex shattering of from the dr to the mann It is Early with its fait If you hav

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so bad that

quaint is a b handled—tha would tumbl earthward. conventional act is startlin But alas! A the happy no persons. It is almost duction of a le mistake. Ev evaporates. operatic.

We prefer owith her shy, speech, her I Dickens senting an ignorance Eleanor Ro She was char her accent wa Tipperary, h lead this poor brought out

On the oth the bluff bank suggested the in a melodic matter of fact technical skill last act he, in hattled with the very typ cockney mis lisher who t musical "rot Frank Doane bad artistic t His song, this called "Kis It is so comuthe tune on le throughout

Eleanor Rob very popular DROP THI Weber & Fle

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& Wilbur, w theatre and leases have The deal w of negotiat the terms r End is a new In many res finest amuse It was built managed h Weber & Fig pendent Boo to the syndic When the trol of the t agers. They this season housands of is no longe Charles Rich

done well for and they have English Dais that piece the aband they cared to